



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **INDEPENDENCE MAN SENTENCED FOR ENTICING A MINOR**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Independence, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for enticing a minor to engage in sexual activity.

**Leroy P. McElwee**, 59, of Independence, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to five years in federal prison without parole.

On May 3, 2004, **McElwee** pleaded guilty to enticing a minor to engage in sexual activity. **McElwee** admitted that he entered an Internet chat room titled "Young girls for older guys 1" between March 16 and 18, 2004, where he engaged in a chat with a person identified as "misty," whom he believed was a 14-year-old girl but in fact was an undercover police officer. During the course of the chats, Graves said, the language quickly degenerated into explicit conversations regarding **McElwee's** desire to have sex with "misty." After chatting with "misty" over a period of three days, **McElwee** agreed to meet at her residence when her mother was gone. **McElwee** was arrested after he traveled from his job in Lenexa, Kan., to Kansas City, Mo.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Valenti. It was investigated by the Platte County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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